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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Confirmation No. 2024
Masako NINOMIYA : Docket No. 2001_1778A
Serial No. 09/995,757 : Group Art Unit 2651
Filed November 29, 2001 :

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OPTICAL DISC, RECORDING APPARATUS,
PLAYBACK APPARATUS, PROGRAM,
COMPUTER-READABLE RECORDING
MEDIUM, RECORDING METHOD AND
PLAYBACK METHOD

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant requests consideration of [X] the references listed on attached form PTO-1449. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 is enclosed.

1a. [X] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. [] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

(1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**

(2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or

b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.


4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

a. ☐ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,

- b. ☒ a foreign patent office search report (in the Japanese and English language) submitted herewith,
 - c. ☐ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
 - d. ☒ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstracts,
 - e. ☐ the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
5. ☐ A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

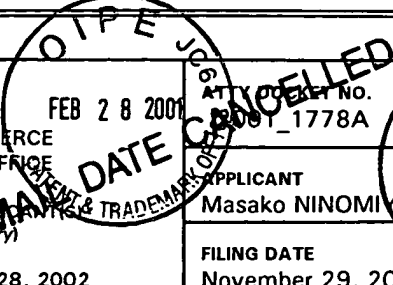
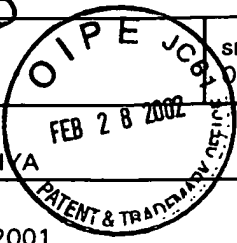
Respectfully submitted,

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February 28, 2002

Sheet 1 of 1							
FORM PTO 1449 (modified)				<div style="text-align: center;">   </div>			
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE				SERIAL NO. 09/995,757			
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT Masako NINOMIYA			
Date Submitted to PTO: February 28, 2002				FILING DATE November 29, 2001		GROUP 2651	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	5,940,351	8-17-99	Fujinami et al.			
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AJ	11-45555	2/1999	JP			Abstr.
	AK	2-162589	6/1990	JP			Abstr.
	AL	1 020 862	7/2000	EP			
	AM	2000-113647	4/2000	JP			Abstr.
	AN						
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
	AO						
	AP						
	AQ						
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED		

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.